181 They are industrious, peace-loving, and
unassuming people, described by ancient chroniclers as "rough but pious." Since time immemorial and ever spiritually attuned to nature, they have built their entire culture upon a natural basis. Like the Letts, who are related to them, they live to a great extent in a "wood age" which is very ancient but for that reason no less many-sided, skillful, and
342 sensible. The houses are made of wood; their foundation beams rest on the bare soil or on field boulders. The roof at one time probably consisted of spruce bark, as the covering sheets for the peat still do today; but now the roof is made of straw which is held on to the ridge by ridge rid
In front of the door there is usually placed a narrow porch with a gabled roof and with little benches to the right and to the left. Formerly the houses had only one room, smoking-room style, but now they usually have a tripartite division with entrance hall in the middle, and living room and bedroom to the right and the left of it. The floor consists of
352 a loam coating or of boarding. The furniture consists of wall benches, loose benches, well-carved solid chairs, a table, wall boards, and pine-
353 wood splinter holders; on the walls are hung pictures of saints, frequently portraits of the old Lithuanian rulers, and, symptomatic for the
343 great amount of emigration, photographs from America. Aside from the living quarters, granaries (klete), barns, stables, wells, and bath
515 house belong to the Lithuanian farmstead. In the bath house they bathe in steam which rises from heated stones on which the water is poured. This, incidentally, is also the way the Indians do it. The bather lies on a bench and cools and massages himself at the same time by means
412 of a cluster of birch twigs which he dips in fresh water. The hand-operated mill is a very ancient instrument. It has one stationary and
[231] one turning stone in a wooden box. Likewise ancient is the beehive made of a hollow tree stem--bee keeping is the most original native and the most highly developed form of the collecting economy, which is here, as among the Letts, universally practiced and skillfully cultivated--; ancient, too, is the zoche, the plow with the forked share, which, as late as the 16th century, was made entirely of wood, and which even today is completely wooden except for the iron shoe; just like the harrows with branches tied to them, and the snowshoes made of hollowed-
534 out oak boards tied under the foot. Ancient, also, are the musical instruments: the nine-stringed kanklys, the truba made of a birch branch cut lengthwise, hollowed out, and tied together again; the short reed pipe, the trapezoid shaped cymbal, the stringed zither made of an osier switch, played with a bow fashioned in the same way; with a resonator